Poor construction of National Highways in Rajasthan

894. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways of Rajasthan are in a very poor condition and more prone towards accidents;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when, these National Highways would be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is a continuous process. National Highways in Rajasthan are generally maintained in traffic worthy condition keeping in view the availability of resources. All quality control measures are being exercised and action is taken as per procedure, through the State Government.

Road Accidents

895. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents in the first six months of this financial year and the fatality accounted as a result thereof, State-wise;

(b) how it compares with the previous year; and

(c) the new preventive action taken by Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The data in respect of accidents, persons killed in road accidents are received from States on an annual basis. The data for the year 2001 have not been received from most of the State Governments as yet. However, on the basis of information available, the State-wise details relating to the years 1999 and 2000 are given in the statement enclosed (*See* below)

(c) Necessary measures of Road Safety on all National Highways are incorporated in the Road Design at the detailed project report stage for the concerned National Highways. The Government is taking a number of steps besides highway design to improve the road safety on National Highways. These include:

i) Widening of single lane to 2-lanes
ii) Widening of selected 2-lane sections to 4/6-lane
iii) Improvement of road geometrics
iv) Construction of bypasses
v) Reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts
vi) Providing paved shoulders
vii) Strengthening weak pavements
viii) Junction improvements
ix) Replacement of level crossings by road over-bridges
x) Retro-reflective road signs
xi) Thermoplastic road markings
xii) Provision of parking lay byes
xiii) Provision of Service Roads
xiv) Wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors
xv) Giving grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes in order to create awareness among the public
xvi) Refresher training of Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers and use of driving simulators.
xvii) Publicity campaign in road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
xviii) National Award has been instituted for voluntary organizations/ individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety
xix) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children
(xx) Observance of Road Safety Week in the first week of every year across the country
xxi) Annual fitness certificate of commercial vehicles is necessary as per provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
xxii) Introduction of Smart Card based driving licenses
xxiii) Transport Minister's Trophy for State Transport Undertakings having lwest accident record, and
xxiv) Provision of cranes and ambulances under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme to States /NGOs.

Statement

Road Accidents and Persons Killed during 1999-2000

All India/States/UTs.	*(A) Road Accidents*	
	1999	2000
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	28529	25398
Arunachal Pradesh	214	252
Assam	2269	2492
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.
Chhattisgarh	Figures included in Madhya Pradesh	6913
Goa	2535	2961
Gujarat	37428	36029
Haryana	8248	8206
Himachal Pradesh	2211	2039
Jammu & Kashmir	4454	4598
Jharkhand	Figures included in Bihar	N.A.
Karnataka	30559	32397
Kerala	33977	37072
Madhya Pradesh	30559	23805
Maharashtra	72231	71550
Manipur	495	506
Meghalaya	286	N.A.
Mizoram	59	72
Nagaland	104	79
Orissa	6577	6611
Punjab	3620	3876
Rajasthan	21132	19932
Sikkim	113	94
Tamil Nadu	48086	48923
Tripura	544	524
Uttaranchal	Figures included in Uttar Pradesh	877
Uttar Pradesh	18116	16644
West Bengal	17889	18979
A & N Islands	138	158
Chandigarh	454	455
D & N Haveli	74	84
Daman & Diu	69	66
Delhi	9909	10245
Lakshadweep	Nil	6
Pondicherry	1032	1054
TOTAL	381911(P)	382897(P)

1	2	3
		(B) Persons Killed
Andhra Pradesh	9212	7615
Arunachal Pradesh	86	89
Assam	980	1032
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.
Chhattisgarh	Figures included in Madhya Pradesh	1102
Goa	209	231
Gujarat	5418	5590
Haryana	2900	2941
Himachal Pradesh	693	755
Jammu & Kashmir	737	729
Jharkhand	Figures included in Bihar	N.A.
Karnataka	5794	5655
Kerala	2574	2710
Madhya Pradesh	5627	3810
Maharashtra	9807	9840
Manipur	169	131
Meghalaya	161	N.A.
Mizoram	27	62
Nagaland	47	57
Orissa	1799	1949
Punjab	2365	2406
Rajasthan	6010	5388
Sikkim	50	40
Tamil Nadu	9653	9300
Tripura	159	125
Uttaranchal	Figures included in Uttar Pradesh	556
Uttar Pradesh	9984	8187
West Bengal	3329	3428
A & N Islands	19	24
Chandigarh	137	126
D & N Haveli	36	32
Daman & Diu	18	20
Delhi	2040	1989
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	166	151
TOTAL	80206(P)	76070(P)

N.A. : Not Available P: Provisional